

Statement of Community Involvement

Adopted April 2014

Having Your Say
in Creating Our
Future



Leaflet 2

Influencing the Local Plan

Statement of Community Involvement

Getting Involved in the Local Plan – SCI Leaflet 2 of 3

2.1 The Planning System

The Government wants to give local people a greater role in shaping their neighbourhoods. This is shown in the changes to the planning system set out in the Localism Act (2011) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012) which give communities the opportunity to get more involved in the preparation of planning documents for their areas.

The Localism Act also introduced the 'Duty-to-Co-operate'. This is a legal requirement setting out how local planning authorities, national park authorities, county councils and a number of other public organisations must work with one another in a collaborative manner and consider joint approaches when preparing their local plans.

We really want your input and ideas and want to involve you in taking forward the new planning system from the earliest stages.

2.2 North East Derbyshire Local Plan

The Local Plan is the Development Plan for North East Derbyshire. It sets out the spatial policies, guidance, development management policies, land use designations and site allocations against which all planning applications and other development proposals in the district will be assessed.

It provides the formal statutory framework for sustainable development and lays the foundations for regeneration and economic growth, whilst protecting and enhancing where possible our most valuable built and environmental assets.

The new Local Plan will replace the saved policies of the existing Local Plan (2005). The Local Plan will set out the vision and strategic objectives for North East Derbyshire for the plan period. It will set out broad locations and amounts of development for the District including site allocations and local targets for housing, employment and retail development based on up-to-date evidence. It will also include detailed policies to inform decisions on planning applications (see leaflet 3).

The Local Plan must comply with the NPPF and will provide the context for any Neighbourhood Plans that might be produced.

2.3 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

This is a tariff-based charging schedule that applies to specific types of development (e.g. housing). When planning permission is secured developers will be required to pay a financial contribution, where this will be used to part-fund the provision and maintenance of necessary strategic and local infrastructure projects. The Council does not have to implement a CIL and can continue to use S106 Agreements. No decision has been made as to whether a CIL will be introduced at North East Derbyshire.

2.4 What is a S106 Agreement?

Planning obligations are more commonly known as S106 agreements. A S106 Agreement is a legal mechanism that makes a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development for example securing a safe highway access. S106 Agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions'.

2.5 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

SPDs are prepared to provide further detailed supporting guidance. Although they do not have the same weight as the Development Plan they can still form a 'material consideration' in determining planning applications. They can be produced more quickly as they are not subject to an independent public examination. We will ask you what you think on any draft SPDs at an early stage in the preparation of each document.

2.6 Other Documents

In preparing our new Local Plan we will also publish on our website;

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - setting out the current timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan.

Authority Monitoring Report - setting out the progress made in producing our Local Plan and the council's (and partners') performance in implementing adopted Development Plan policies and proposals.

2.7 Neighbourhood Plans

Local communities can now prepare plans for their local areas themselves if they wish to do so. Any community initiated Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan for those areas of the district, once they have passed through independent examination and a local community referendum.

The Local Planning Authority does not prepare Neighbourhood Plans, but the council does have a duty to provide advice and technical assistance to community groups engaged in Neighbourhood Planning, particularly in relation to the initial designation of neighbourhood areas and neighbourhood forums, as well as the examination process and holding referendums. Further information can be found at the Planning Portal (www.planningportal.gov.uk/inyourarea/neighbourhood) or at the Derbyshire County Council website (www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/neighbourhood_plans/default.asp).

2.8 When will we involve you?

There are a number of key stages involved in the preparation of the documents for the Local Plan. These stages are required by Government planning legislation and regulations and are designed to ensure that the process is as open and transparent as possible.

Figures 1 – 3 illustrate the key stages in the production of the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The boxes highlighted in blue also show when you can get involved in the planning process – getting involved at the earliest stages of preparation will ensure your views have the most opportunity for being taken into account. The Local Plan and the CIL will be subject to independent examination, led by a Planning Inspector. At the examination people will be able to speak if they have made a formal representation at the last public stage of consultation.

Figure 1: Key Stages in Preparing the Local Plan

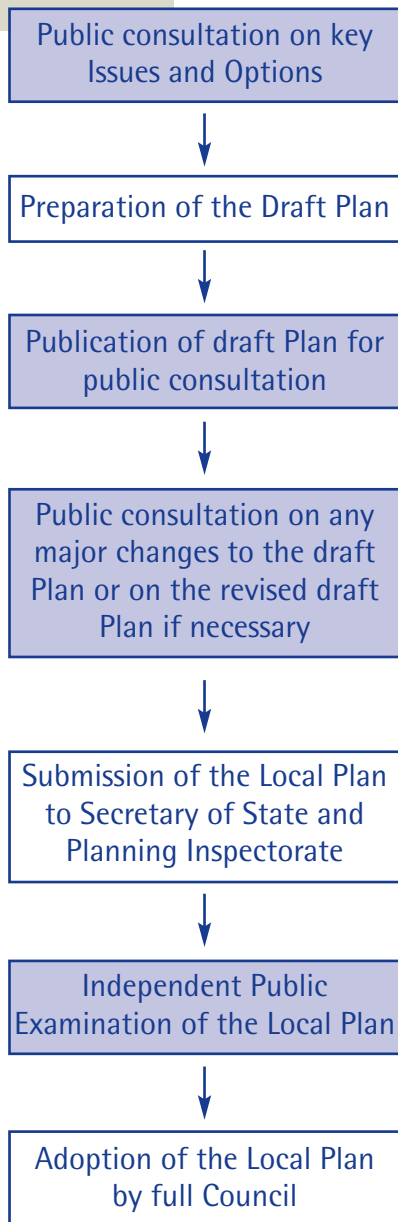


Figure 2: Key stages in preparing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

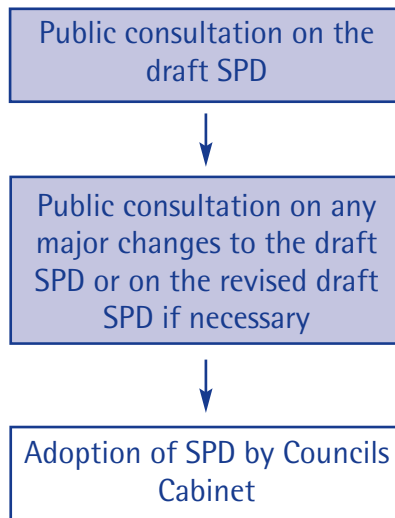
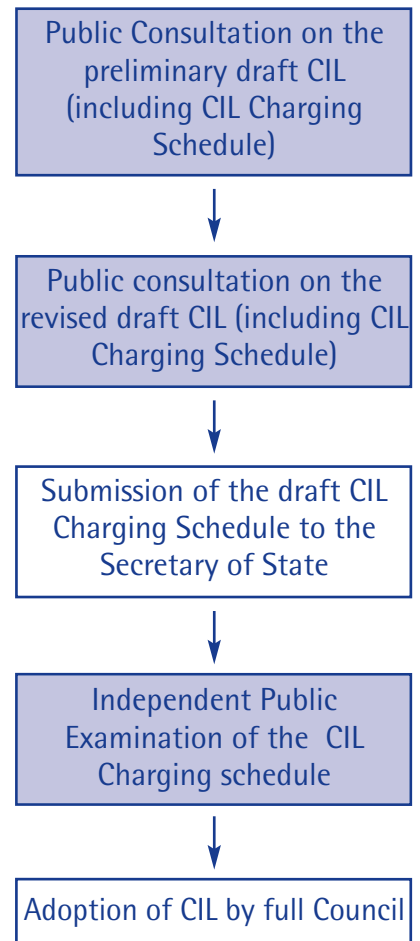


Figure 3: Key stages in preparing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)



2.9 Sustainability Appraisal

As part of the plan preparation process, we will assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of the Local Plan and relevant Supplementary Planning Documents. The key purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to identify and enhance the positive effects whilst minimising any potentially adverse impacts of our planning policies. This process will also involve the assessment of any health and equality impacts. Where necessary, we will also carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment on our emerging planning documents. Please refer to the Habitat Regulation Assessments for further guidance.

2.10 Publications and fees

At all stages of the preparation of the Local Plan we will make copies of relevant documents available for reference at the Council House, Saltergate, Chesterfield and in public libraries in the District.

All of our planning documents will be available to download from our website (www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk). Charges will apply for printed copies and for some background papers. Please see our website for further information.

2.11 How will we involve you?

Letters and e-mails

In the interest of the environment, speed and cost, where you have provided us with an email address we will generally use this method of communication rather than sending a letter.

The Council's Website

The internet is a popular way of communicating planning issues to individuals and groups. A key advantage of the website is that lots of information can be included compared to other formats.

We have specific planning policy pages on the council's website. We will ensure that these pages are regularly updated. These web pages will contain the latest information on Development Plan progress.

We have an online consultation system so during periods of public consultation stakeholders can make representations online here. (<http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/environment-planning/planning/planning-policy>)

Public Exhibitions

Public exhibitions give people the chance to look at plans and proposals and speak to members of the planning team in an informal setting. They are effective in engaging people who want to give their views or just gather information but do not want to do this in a formal environment like a public meeting.

Workshop/Discussion Groups and Meetings

Workshops provide an environment that can be inclusive, interactive, fun and can focus and encourage participation from individuals who do not usually get involved with planning issues. Workshops can be particularly useful when trying to engage with people and groups about a particular site. Smaller meetings will be useful for getting the views of individuals or groups and allow for issues to be explored in more detail.

"The News"

This is the Council's free magazine. It is published 2-3 times a year. Copies are sent to all residents and copies are available at libraries, leisure centres and other information centres. Articles will be included in "The News" to explain and update on planning policy preparation where appropriate.

2.12 Using the Results of Consultation

All comments received by the Council will be recorded, read carefully and taken into account in relation to the preparation of planning policy documents.

A summary of representations and the Council's response will then be prepared and made available on the website.

We will prepare reports after each stage of consultation on the Local Plan. We will make these available at the Council Offices in Chesterfield, as well as on our website.

2.14 Customer service

The Council aims to provide an effective and efficient high standard of service to everybody, and will always strive to meet customer service standards as set out in the Planning Charter.

2.14 Our timescales

We will keep our Local Plan up to date to support the planned development of housing and other priorities within the District.

To keep our Local Plan on target we will:

Carry out all our planning consultations in line with agreed community involvement policies and the latest programme timetable set out in our Local Development Scheme.

2.15 Planning Aid England

'Planning Aid' England is a voluntary organisation linked to the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). Through its network of volunteers, who are professional Chartered Town Planners, it provides independent and impartial advice including support for Neighbourhood Planning. Please contact Planning Aid England for further information to understand what support is currently being offered.

(<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid>)